



Subject: Annual Notification for Sonoma County Water Agency's 2013 Stream Maintenance Projects

Dear Participating Agency,

Enclosed is the Sonoma County Water Agency's (Water Agency) Stream Maintenance Program's (SMP) Annual Notification Report (ANR) for the 2013 stream maintenance activities. The following information is provided in this notification packet:

- Project List and Locations
- Project Designs
- Summary of Maintenance Project Sizes, Extents, and Potential Effects
- Annual Mitigation Plan
- Annual Sediment Disposal Plan
- Maps identifying location of planned maintenance work in relation to known sensitive species/habitat as represented on the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) as well as maps showing the 2013 project sites in relation to known California Tiger Salamander occurrences (follows Section 3 of the ANR)
- Schedule and listing of pre-construction surveys to be completed for 2013 projects; and
- CNDDDB forms for new observations of special status species.
- CDFW Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration Form (FG 2023);
- Annual Notification Checklist For CDFW MLSAA;
- Check for Annual Master Agreement Fee; and
- CD containing and e-copy of the SCWA 2013 ANR

The enclosed documents should fulfill the reporting requirements outlined the following permits obtained for the SMP:

- CDFW Notification Number 1600-2006-0254-3
- Consistency Determination Number 2080-2010-029-03, 8/6/10
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board, North Coast Region (NCRWQCB)
Order No. R1-2009-0049
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Region (SFRWQCB)
Order No. R2-2011-020

- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Russian River Biological Opinion, Zone 1A BO, Tracking No. F/SWR/2006/07316
- NMFS, Petaluma River and Sonoma Creek Watersheds Biological Opinion, Zones 2A, 3A. Tracking No. 2009/03082, Corps File No. 2009-00136N,
- US Army Corps of Engineers, Permit No. 2009-00079N, Zone 1A
- US Army Corps of Engineers, Permit No. 2009-00136N, Zones 2A, 3A
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Programmatic Biological Opinion for SMP, USFWS PBO Reference No. 81420-2009-F-0788-1

Overview of 2013 Maintenance Projects

Planned stream maintenance work for the 2013 season includes four localized projects, Twenty reach scale projects, seven sediment basin/instream clearing projects (of which three will be newly established this season), and five reservoir inlet clearing projects. These maintenance projects are necessary to restore conveyance capacity and maintain proper function of Water Agency facilities. All of the projects will be conducted in accordance with the impact avoidance and minimization approaches described in the SMP Manual (Chapter 5) and with the application of program BMPs as described in Chapter 7 of the SMP Manual. The 2013 routine maintenance projects include the following:

Localized Sediment Removal Projects

- Brush Creek Reach 2 & Austin Creek 1: At confluence
- Ducker Creek Reach 2: At double box culvert by Rinconada Drive
- Roseland Creek Reach 1: At cattle crossings above Llano Road
- Windsor Creek Reach 3/4: At culvert on Natalie Drive

Reach Scale Sediment Removal Projects

- Colgan Creek Reach 3, 4: Between Bellevue Avenue and Todd Road
- Colgan Creek Reach 5: From Hearn Avenue south to start of concrete banks
- Corona Creek Tributary Reach 1: Between Corona Road and Holm Road
- East Washington Creek Reach 3, 4, 5: From McGregor Avenue to the airport
- Forestview Creek Reach 2, 3: Between Fulton Road and Guerneville Road
- Hinebaugh Creek Reach 3, 4, 5: Redwood Drive to County Club Drive
- Lichau Creek Reach 1: Between Hwy 101 and Stony Point Road
- Lynch Creek Reach 1: From Hwy 101 to the Petaluma River
- Nathanson Creek Bypass Reach 1: Upstream of Napa Road
- Starr Creek Reach 2: Railroad tracks to Oak Park Street
- Steele Creek Reach 2: Between Marlow Road and Ridley Avenue
- Todd Creek Reach 1, 2: Between U.S. Hwy. 101 and railroad tracks
- Washington Creek Reach 6: Maria Drive to Sonoma Mountain Parkway

Sediment Basin/Instream Basin Clearing

- Adobe Creek Reach 1/2: Above and below South McDowell Boulevard
- Cook Creek Reach 2 (basin): East of Petaluma Hill Road
- Copeland Creek Reach 3/4: At Country Club Drive
- Copeland Creek Reach 4/5: At Snyder Lane
- Five Creek Reach 1: At Snyder Lane
- Jessie Lane Creek Reach 1: At culvert on Petaluma Boulevard

- Paulin Creek Reach 5/6: At road crossings of McBride, Range and Hardies
- Todd Creek Reach 5: Upstream of Dolores Lane at rocked crossing below culvert
- Wilfred Creek Reach 1: At Snyder Lane

Reservoir Inlet Clearing

- Brush Creek Reservoir
- Matanzas Creek Reservoir
- Piner Creek Reservoir
- Santa Rosa Creek Reservoir (Spring Lake)
- Fish Ladder in Santa Rosa Creek Diversion Structure, adjacent to Montgomery Drive

Sections 1 through 3 of this ANR contain project descriptions, project maps, site plans, site photographs, and additional documentation and reference materials.

For project sites with recurring sediment removal needs, sediment basins, concrete stream segments, in-stream basins and reservoir inlets, the Water Agency will mitigate for the initial establishment of the basin but not for following removals. Reservoir inlets that are cleared annually include Piner, Brush, Matanzas, and Santa Rosa (Spring Lake) Creek Reservoirs as well as the Santa Rosa Diversion Channel fish ladder. Recurring, already established, in-stream basins that will be worked this season are Adobe Creek 1 and 2, Cook Creek 2, Copeland Creek 3, 4 and 5, Five Creek 1 and Wilfred Creek 1. New for 2013 in-stream basins are Jessie Lane 1, Paulin 5 and 6, and Todd 5.

On-Site and Off-Site Mitigation for Maintenance Projects

Section 4 and Appendix G of the Annual Notification Packet includes detailed information for both on-site (Tier 1) and off-site (Tiers 2 and 3) mitigation actions. Details of the on-site (Tier 1) restoration approaches and methods are provided in Chapters 5 and 8 of the SMP Manual. Existing conditions at the maintenance project sites are described in the channel characterizations (Reach Sheets) of Chapter 4 of the SMP Manual.

In terms of off-site mitigation for temporal impacts, two stream restoration projects in Zone 1A have been identified to mitigate for the 2013 maintenance activities. These restoration projects are being conducted by the Center for Environmental Stewardship and Point Reyes Bird Observatory (Students and Teachers Restoring a Watershed (STRAW)). The off-site mitigation projects for 2013 include ecologic enhancement and restoration activities at Starr Creek and Taylor Mountain Regional Park. More detail describing these projects is included in Section 4 and Appendix G. Currently, a scope and agreement are being developed for the Taylor Mountain Regional Park project. Tier 3 mitigation area contributed by the Taylor Mountain Regional Park project is unknown at this time and only area contributed by the Starr Creek Project are added into the totals. Mitigation balances indicated in Table 4-5 of the ANR do not currently account for any area contributed by this Taylor Mountain Regional Parks project. Balances indicated in Table 4-5 are tentative, and will be updated for the Annual Summary Report. Project details will be forwarded to Inter-Agency Workgroup (IAWG) members for approvals as soon as the scope is finalized with PRBO and STRAW. These off-site watershed-based restoration projects are consistent with the expressed goals of the off-site mitigation program to restore impacted habitats, but to also address larger watershed factors related to stream maintenance such as controlling upstream and upland erosion and sediment sources.

As described in the SMP Manual, the combination of on-site and off-site restoration activities represents a holistic approach to address the impacts from maintenance activities by addressing both the impacts

of stream maintenance while also addressing/reducing the ongoing need for such maintenance. The off-site mitigation projects provide mitigation for the temporal impacts occurring between the time that maintenance activities occur, and the point at which on-site (Tier 1) restoration activities have become established and provide ecological function equivalent to or greater than the pre-maintenance condition. This year's mitigation approach directly addresses project impacts on-site and also provides important habitat improvements and erosion source reductions in the broader watershed through the off-site (Tier 3) projects. Additionally, native and native "analog" trees (as defined in Appendix E - Vegetation Management) removed in the course of stream work are replaced at specific ratios depending on species (native trees replaced at a 2:1 ratio, and non-native analogs are replaced at a 1.5:1 ratio). To date these mitigation trees have been installed along Bellevue-Wilfred 1, 2, and 3, Colgan 3 and 4, Corona 5, 6 and 7, Hinebaugh 1 and 2, Laguna 2, Roseland 1, 2, and 3, Washoe 1 and Wilfred 1.

In addition to the Tier 1 and Tier 3 mitigation efforts, the Water Agency will also be conducting compensatory mitigation for California tiger salamander impacted by the 2013 maintenance projects. For the 2013 field season, the Water Agency will utilize existing credits purchased and approved in 2011 to offset impacts to California tiger salamander. The 2013 field season will utilize 0.051 acres of the 0.054 acres of credit remaining leaving 0.003 acres for allocation in the 2014 field season.

Depending on project priorities, to ensure coverage for 2014 and 2015 field seasons, the Water Agency may pursue purchasing an additional 0.28 acres of credit from USFWS and CDFW-approved local mitigation banks. Mitigation banking standards for the SMP follow the guidelines in the SMP Biological Opinion with the USFWS and Section 2080.1 Consistency Determination by CDFW for the SMP.

Addendums for Previous Submittals

Generally, most SMP submittals include all the required elements needed for the IAWG to review and approve, monitor, and modify ongoing flood control activities. Occasionally, individual elements are not completed in time to include in a current submittal. In these cases, the missing elements are noted and addendums are provided with the next submittal. Please find as Appendix H, and SMP Addendum which includes post-cross sectional diagrams missing from the 2012 Annual Summary Report.

Closing

On May 7, 2013, the IAWG and the Water Agency project team will tour the 2012 project sites, including visiting some past maintenance sites and watershed mitigation sites. This will be a valuable opportunity for the IAWG members to get a field-based perspective on the projects, ask questions, and confirm conditions in the field.

The Water Agency invites each agency to comment on planned maintenance activities, confirm activities, and/or provide a notice to proceed with the 2013 maintenance projects (per permit time frames) before work activities are planned to begin on June 15, 2013

The 2013 season marks some significant accomplishments for the program. Many creeks have been shepherded through the early seral process of establishing trees along the toes in suitable locations, while also managing and establishing upland trees along the top of bank. Currently a majority of creeks have significant sections where the willow canopy closes over the channel bottom. This represents a vast improvement in both habitat complexity as water interacts with the trees retained at the toe as well as providing needed shade to cool the stream corridor.

Please feel free to contact me, Keenan Foster (kfoster@scwa.ca.gov / (707) 547-1941), or our Stream Maintenance Coordinator Jon Niehaus (jon@scwa.ca.gov / 707-521-1845).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keenan Foster". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Keenan Foster
Principal Environmental Specialist

Attachments- Annual Notification for 2013 Maintenance Projects